

FULL 68 PAGES

AMAZING TALES



98

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CREEPY **WORLDS**



THE PHANTOM

THE STORY OF HERO



THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES TELL
MANY STRANGE AND EXCITING
STORIES OF PHANTOM'S PAST AND
PRESENT. PROBABLY THE MOST
INTERESTING OF ALL TELLS OF OUR
PHANTOM AND HIS AMAZING HORSE,
HERO!

HAVING DECIDED TO PAY THE PHANTOM A SURPRISE VISIT, DIANA PALMER CROSSES A CRUDE ROPE BRIDGE OVER A RAGING RIVER...



SUDDENLY...



NEAR THE RIVER, HERO HAS BEEN GRAZING ALONE... HIS SENSITIVE EARS PICK UP THE SOUND OF DIANA'S SCREAMS...



FIGHTING ANGRY CURRENTS, HERO SWIMS TO DIANA WHO MANAGES TO GRASP HIS HARNESS! THEN, THE POWERFUL HORSE SLOWLY PULLS HER TO SHORE...



LATER, IN THE DEEP WOODS...

HE SAVED
MY LIFE!

THERE IS NO HORSE IN THE
WORLD LIKE HERO! HE IS A
BRAVE AND GALLANT
FRIEND!

YOU NEVER TOLD ME... HOW
WERE YOU LUCKY ENOUGH TO
FIND A HORSE LIKE **HERO**?

IT'S QUITE A STORY, DIANA!
IT GOES BACK TO THE TIME
WHEN I FIRST BECAME
'PHANTOM'!

"YEARS AGO, TWO EVIL MEN
TRAVELED TOWARD THE KINGDOM
OF KABORA WITH ONE PURPOSE...
TO **KIDNAP** THE DAUGHTER OF
KING **SUROBI**!"

THERE IT IS! **SUROBI'S**
PALACE! JUST AS THE
MAP SAYS...THE JUNGLE
ON ONE SIDE AND
DESERT ON THE OTHER!

HE'S VERY
WEALTHY! HE'LL
PAY **ANY** RANSOM
WE ASK!

YEAH! BUT
FIRST, WE'VE GOT
TO GET HIS
DAUGHTER! I
HEAR HE HAS
VICIOUS DOGS
GUARDING THE
PLACE!

IT'LL TAKE
MORE'N A PACK
OF DOGS TO
OUT-SMART
NEWT LESTER!

WHY DO YOU THINK I BROUGHT
ALL THIS **RAW MEAT**? THEY
WON'T PAY **US** ANY ATTENTION
WHEN THEY SEE THIS!

**THAT NIGHT, THE KIDNAPPERS
BEGIN TO EXECUTE THEIR PLAN...**



**THEY KNOW THE LAYOUT
OF THE PALACE...**



**...AND SOON FIND THEIR WAY
TO THE GIRL'S ROOM...**



**WITH PERFECT TIMING, THE
KIDNAPPERS MAKE THEIR
ESCAPE, WHILE THE REST OF
THE PALACE SLEEPS...**



**SWIFTLY, THEY DRIVE DEEP INTO
THE JUNGLE...**



**MILES AWAY FROM THE PALACE, THEY
FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO MAKE CAMP...**



**JUST LIKE ALL WOMEN...
NEVER SATISFIED! *FIX
US SOME GRUB!***



**WHAT'RE YA
PUSHING HER
AROUND FOR?**

**LISTEN... AS
LONG AS SHE'S
WITH US, SHE'S
GOTTA EARN
HER KEEP!**



*THE NEXT DAY THEY CONTINUE
THEIR JOURNEY...*

WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE
CITY, I'LL SEND A **RANSOM**
NOTE TO KING SUROBI!

I'LL BE **GLAD** TO GET BACK TO
CIVILIZATION! THIS JUNGLE
GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

*BUT THE JUNGLE HAS STRANGE
WAYS OF DEALING WITH EVIL...*

I CAN'T SEE A FOOT
IN FRONT OF ME!

STUCK! WE'LL **NEVER**
GET IT OUT!

WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO?

FROM HERE ON,
WE GO ON FOOT!
GET THE GEAR!

ON FOOT?
IN THIS
JUNGLE?

THERE'S A RIVER NOT
FAR FROM HERE! **MEBBE**
WE CAN SWIPE A CANOE!

SLOWLY, THE TRIO MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE. THEY DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THEY ARE ENTERING BENGALI COUNTRY, AND SILENT EYES ARE WATCHING...



SOON, JUNGLE DRUMS BEGIN TO SPEAK TO THE PHANTOM...

THEY REACH THE RIVER, AND, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, FIND A CANOE...

**TWO STRANGERS COME —
GIRL-CHILD WITH THEM**

**TWO MEN AND A YOUNG
GIRL TRAVELING ON FOOT?
STRANGE, INDEED, AND
VERY DANGEROUS!**



**QUICK! STOW
THE GEAR IN
HERE!**



**BUT THEIR LUCK TAKES A SUDDEN
TURN FOR THE WORSE...**

**THIEVES!
STEAL MY
CANOE!**



TRY AND STOP US!



ANOTHER NATIVE APPEARS, AND THE KIDNAPPERS HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL!



WHILE THE FIGHT RAGES, MELONIE, UNNOTICED, QUIETLY PUSHES THE CANOE INTO THE WATER...



IF ONLY THEY DON'T SEE ME...

HEY! SHE'S GETTING AWAY!!



GONE!

I KNEW I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LISTENED TO YOU! IT WAS A HAIRBRAINED IDEA FROM THE START!



MOMENTS LATER, THE PHANTOM ARRIVES TO FIND THE TWO MEN IN THE HANDS OF THE BANDAR, THE PYGMY POISON PEOPLE...

A THOUSAND POISON ARROWS ARE POINTED AT YOU, GENTLEMEN! ONLY MY PRESENCE IS KEEPING YOU ALIVE! WHY WERE YOU IN THE JUNGLE WITH A YOUNG CHILD?

OUT WITH IT!

THEY QUICKLY CONFESS THE KIDNAPPING...

YOU KIDNAPPED KING SAROBI'S DAUGHTER, MELONIE?! **WHERE IS SHE?**

SHE ESCAPED!
... TOOK THE CANOE
DOWN THE RIVER!

I WOULDN'T ADVISE TRYING TO ESCAPE, GENTLEMEN...
THOSE POISON ARROWS
KILL IN **SECONDS!**

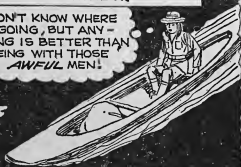
KEEP THESE MEN **PRISONER** UNTIL I RETURN! I'LL HAND THEM OVER TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES, THEN!

YES, O' GHOST WHO WALKS!

I'VE GOT TO FIND MELONIE!
KING SAROBI IS A FRIEND OF MINE! I REMEMBER HER WHEN SHE WAS ONLY A BABY!

**MILES AHEAD, MELONIE DRIFTS
IN THE CANOE...IN HER HASTE TO
ESCAPE, SHE HAS LEFT THE PADDLE
ON SHORE...**

I DON'T KNOW WHERE
I'M GOING, BUT ANY-
THING IS BETTER THAN
BEING WITH THOSE
AWFUL MEN!



**EXHAUSTED, SHE
FALLS ASLEEP...**



NEXT MORNING...

I'M ASHORE! I
BETTER GET BACK
IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE RIVER WHERE
IT'S SAFE!



TAKE
HER TO THE
CHIEF!



AAGGH!

YII!



**WHILE THE PHANTOM SEARCHES
THE RIVER BANK...**



**MELONIE IS TAKEN TO THE CHIEF
OF THE SINKU TRIBE... A REBEL
BAND OF NATIVE OUTLAWS...**



THE CHIEF SPEAKS...

JUNGLE DRUMS TELL ME THIS IS
THE DAUGHTER OF KING SUROBI OF
KABORA! SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY
TWO MEN WHO HAVE SINCE
BEEN CAPTURED!




NOW THE RANSOM
WILL BE OURS!




THERE'S THE CANOE!
MELONIE WENT ASHORE
HERE!



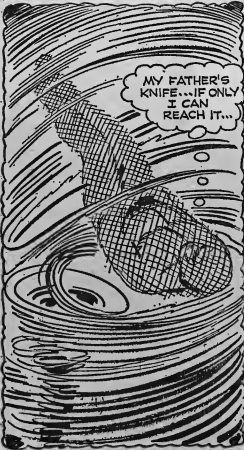





TAKE HIM TO THE
BLACK WHIRLPOOL!




EVEN *WITHOUT* A NET,
NO ONE CAN SURVIVE
SUCH RAGING WATERS!



MY FATHER'S
KNIFE...IF ONLY
I CAN
REACH IT...



AIR! I NEED
AIR! MY LUNGS ARE
BURSTING!



THE PHANTOM IS DEAD!
NOW THE SINKU TRIBE WILL
RULE THE JUNGLE! BUT *FIRST*,
WE NEED THE RANSOM!

**BUT THE PHANTOM IS NOT DEAD!
WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN, HE
FIGHTS HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE
THROUGH THE ANGRY WHIRLPOOL...**



**... AND CLINGS TO A ROCK TO
CATCH HIS BREATH!**



**WHILE THE SINKU DANCE
IN CELEBRATION OF THE
DEATH OF THE PHANTOM!**



**SUDDENLY, THE DANCE STOPS
AS THE NATIVES SENSE AN EERIE,
UNKNOWN
PRESENCE.**



**SOMEONE
WATCHING!**

**WHO COULD
IT BE?**

**THE LEGEND OF THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS BROUGHT HOME
TO THEM AGAIN, AS THE PHANTOM STEPS FROM THE JUNGLE.
THE NATIVES RUN IN PANIC, IGNORING THEIR CHIEF'S ORDERS!
THE SIGHT OF THE PHANTOM IS ENOUGH!**



**AIEEE!
HE
LIVES!!**

**I TOLD YOU
HE COULD
NOT DIE!**

**STOP!
COME
BACK!**

**MOMENTS
LATER,
ONLY THE
PHANTOM
AND THE
CHIEF
REMAIN
IN THE
CAMP...**

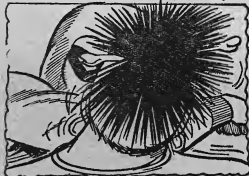
**LOOKS LIKE
IT'S JUST YOU
AND ME, CHIEF!**

**OTHERS COWARDS!
CHIEF NOT
AFRAID...**



**THE CHIEF, THOUGH A HARDENED
JUNGLE FIGHTER, IS NO MATCH FOR
THE POWER OF THE PHANTOM!**

**"WHEN THE PHANTOM IS ANGRY,
HIS BLOWS SOUND LIKE THUNDER!"
... OLD JUNGLE SAYING.**



**PHANTOM... MY FATHER
HAS TOLD ME MANY STORIES
OF YOU! I—I DIDN'T
BELIEVE YOU WERE *REAL*!**



**YES, I'M *REAL*, MELONIE!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOUR FATHER AGAIN!
HE IS A GREAT MAN!**

**WE'VE A LONG TRIP AHEAD OF US,
MELONIE! MANY DANGERS
AWAIT US!**

**I'M NOT AFRAID,
PHANTOM... AS
LONG AS I'M
WITH *YOU*!**



THE
PHANTOM

THE STORY OF
HERO PART
TWO

The LONG TRIP HOME

*AFTER RESCUING THE PRINCESS
MELONIE FROM SINKU OUTLAWS,
THE PHANTOM HEADS THE CANOE
TOWARD THE KINGDOM OF
KABORA, AND HER FATHER, KING
SUROBI. BUT, MANY DANGERS
STILL LIE AHEAD!*

GET DOWN,
MELONIE!
THEY MEAN
BUSINESS!



WOLFE

SOON YOU'LL HAVE A HAPPY
REUNION WITH YOUR FATHER,
MELONIE!



WE'RE RUNNING INTO
RAPIDS! HANG ON
TIGHT, MELONIE!



JUMP, MELONIE!!



LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO GO
THE REST OF THE WAY ON FOOT!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



YES, I'M
OKAY!



**WHILE MELONIE AND THE
PHANTOM MAKE THEIR WAY
THROUGH THE JUNGLE...**



**...KING SUROBI IS ORDERING HIS
SOLDIERS TO COMB THE TERRITORY
FOR THE KIDNAPPERS!**



**THE ARMY FANS OUT INTO THE JUNGLE...
DETERMINED TO SEARCH EVERY SQUARE
INCH OF IT...**



THE NEXT DAY...





DOWN, MELONIE!



YOU FOOL! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
YOU MIGHT HIT THE GIRL!



YOUR FATHER'S TROOPS! THEY
THINK I'M ONE OF THE
KIDNAPPERS! STAY LOW,
MELONIE! I'LL DRAW THEIR
FIRE AWAY FROM YOU!



SWIFTLY, THE PHANTOM
LEAPS FROM ROCK TO ROCK
...WITH THE SPEED OF
A COUGAR...



HE'S TRYING TO
GET AWAY! FIRE!

WITH KEEN JUNGLE INSTINCT,
THE PHANTOM WORKS HIS WAY
BEHIND THE SOLDIERS...



SUDDENLY...



KIDNAPPER! NOW WE'VE
GOT YOU! YOU'LL DIE
FOR THIS!

BUT...I...



DON'T
SHOOT!

MELONIE!






HE'S THE *PHANTOM*!
HE SAVED MY LIFE!

THE PHANTOM? KING
SUROBI'S *FRIEND*!

A DAY'S JOURNEY
LATER, THEY REACH
THE KINGDOM OF
KABORA...



HOME AT LAST,
MELONIE!

MY FATHER!
HE MUST BE SO
WORRIED!

A JOYOUS RECEPTION
AWAITS THEM, AS
TRUMPETS HERALD
THEIR ARRIVAL...



FATHER!
FATHER!

MELONIE!

THE PHANTOM! MY FRIEND!
ONCE YOU SAVED *MY* LIFE! NOW,
YOU HAVE SAVED MY DAUGHTER!
I MUST REWARD YOU! *ANY-*
THING I HAVE IS YOURS!



MY REWARD IS THE
HAPPINESS I SEE IN
YOUR FACE, KING
SUROBI!

BUT YOU MUST
ACCEPT *SOME*
GIFT!

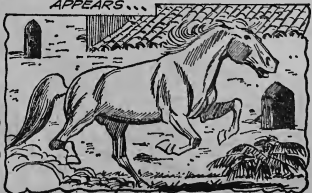
AAAHHEEE!



A JACKAL! IT'S
ATTACKING ONE OF
THE GUARDS!



SUDDENLY, AS IF FROM OUT OF THE
AIR... A MAJESTIC WHITE HORSE
APPEARS...



THE JACKAL STOPS SHORT,
AS HE REALIZES HE MUST
FACE THIS NEW ENEMY...



HE LEAPS FOR THE
HORSE'S THROAT...



... BUT, TOO LATE!



THE JACKAL IS NO MATCH FOR
THE POWERFUL WHITE HORSE!



AFTER THE BATTLE IS WON,
THE WHITE HORSE GENTLY
NUDGES THE GUARD TO SEE
IF HE'S UNHURT!



THAT HORSE!
I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANY-
THING LIKE
HIM!

HE IS MY PRIZED
POSSESSION! THE
FINEST HORSE OF
THE CENTURY!
HE SHOULD BELONG
TO A MAN LIKE YOU,
PHANTOM! TAKE
HIM, HE'S YOURS!
IT'S THE **LEAST**
I CAN DO!



THEN SOMETHING STRANGE
HAPPENS... THE WHITE HORSE
COMES TO THE PHANTOM AS IF
FATE HAD BROUGHT THEM
TOGETHER...



I DON'T THINK HE'LL LET
YOU LEAVE *WITHOUT* HIM!
HE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN
A FANCY TO YOU!

HIS NAME WILL BE **HERO**!
HE EARNED IT TODAY!
THANK YOU, KING SUROBI!
I HOPE, SOON, WE
SHALL MEET AGAIN!



HAIL THE PHANTOM! HAIL
HERO!



AND SO, DIANA... THAT IS HOW
I FOUND **HERO**! HE'S BEEN MY
FRIEND, AND COMPANION EVER-
SINCE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT
I'D DO WITHOUT HIM!



JEWELLED SCEPTRE



AS A GUIDE CONDUCTED TOURISTS THROUGH ANCESTRAL HADLEY HALL, IN ENGLAND...

THE HALL WAS BUILT IN 1563 BY SIR HENRY HADLEY! IT WAS SAID THAT... PLEASE, SIR, I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU NOT TO LAG BEHIND!

I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST THAT EVERYTHING LOOKS SO STRANGELY... **FAMILIAR!** HOW DOES IT HAPPEN THAT THE HOUSE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?



THE OLD LADY WHO OWNS IT NEEDS THE MONEY FROM THE ADMISSION CHARGES! FUNNY...HER ANCESTOR, SIR HENRY, OWNED A JEWELLED SCEPTER AND HID IT SOMEWHERE FOR SAFETY! IF IT WERE EVER FOUND, IT WOULD BE THE SAVING OF THIS OLD PLACE! NOW, STEP ALONG, FOLKS!



HE MOVED OFF...BUT ONCE AGAIN, THE SOLDIER LAGGED BEHIND! SOME STRANGE COMPULSION DIRECTED HIM TOWARDS THE PANELED WALL...

OVER HERE YOU'LL SEE A FINE EXAMPLE OF RARE, MEDIEVAL TAPESTRY...

I MUST BE **CRAZY!** SOMETHING'S DRIVING ME...LIKE AN OLD MEMORY...



SIR, YOU'VE GOT TO STAY WITH THE PARTY! IT'S AGAINST THE RULES TO...

LOOK! I TOUCHED SOMETHING IN THE WALL...AND A **HIDDEN PANEL OPENED!**



FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE WALL...HIDDEN ALMOST FOUR CENTURIES AGO...

IS THIS... THE SCEPTER YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?



BUT...BUT HOW DID YOU **KNOW** WHERE TO LOOK? YOU WENT STRAIGHT TO THE RIGHT PLACE...

I... I CAN'T ANSWER THAT! I JUST DON'T **KNOW!**



CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT, READER?

VERDICT: NOT GUILTY



THE SENSATIONAL CASE HAD AROUSED ALL ENGLAND! IT INVOLVED THE MURDER OF SIR ALFRED HAINES, A COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, WHOSE YOUNG MALE SECRETARY WAS CHARGED WITH THE CRIME...

THE EVIDENCE WAS CONCLUSIVE AND THE MOTIVE STRONG! CHALMERS KNEW THAT SIR ALFRED INTENDED TO LEAVE HIM ALL HIS MONEY!

WHY WASTE TIME? LET'S VOTE!

EACH MAN WROTE HIS VERDICT ON A SLIP OF PAPER! THE FOREMAN READ THEM IN A SOLEMN VOICE...

GUILTY...GUILTY...AND GUILTY! WE ARE UNANIMOUS!

NO OTHER DECISION WAS POSSIBLE!

WELL...THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO BE DONE! LET'S GIVE OUR DECISION TO THE COURT-ROOM!

WAIT!

EACH JUROR TURNED WITH STARTLED DISMAY AT THE UNEXPECTED VOICE! UNSEEN BY ANY OF THEM, THEIR DELIBERATIONS HAD BEEN WITNESSED...

YOU ARE SENDING AN INNOCENT MAN TO HIS DOOM! CHALMERS IS NOT GUILTY!

HOW DID HE GET IN HERE?

HE WASN'T HERE WHEN WE CAME IN!



HE'S GOT NO BUSINESS HERE! HAVE HIM REMOVED!

HEAR ME OUT! I SPEAK THE TRUTH!



I WON'T STAND FOR SUCH AN IRREGULARITY! I'M CALLING THE GUARDS AT ONCE!

I FORBID IT! LOOK AT ME, ALL OF YOU! I COMMAND YOU TO LOOK INTO MY EYES!

STRANGELY, NOT ONE HAD THE POWER TO DISOBEY! ALL GAZED AT THE STRANGER HELPLESSLY...

THAT'S RIGHT... STARE IN MY EYES... DEEPLY! YOU SHALL DO AS I SAY! CHALMERS IS INNOCENT... ANOTHER MAN IS GUILTY OF THE CRIME! YOU WILL GO INTO THE COURTROOM AND SAY YOU HAVE FOUND THE DEFENDANT INNOCENT!



THE COURTROOM WAS HUSHED WITH TENSION AS THE JURY RETURNED...

HAVE YOU REACHED A VERDICT?

WE HAVE! WE FIND THE DEFENDANT... NOT GUILTY!



AN INSTANT FUROR BROKE OUT AMONG THE OUTRAGED SPECTATORS! WHEN THE JUDGE HAD RESTORED ORDER...

HOW IS SUPPOSEDLY INTELLIGENT MEN COULD HAVE REACHED SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS VERDICT IS BEYOND ME... IT IS A TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE! I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO SET THE PRISONER FREE!



THE JURY SAT STONILY AS THE JUDGE LASHED OUT! LATER, EACH JUROR ACTED MOST STRANGELY...

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? I DON'T BLAME THE JUDGE ONE BIT... THE MAN WAS CLEARLY GUILTY! WHY ARE YOU STARING LIKE THAT?

I... I MUST SLEEP...



NEXT MORNING UPON AWAKING, EACH JUROR'S EXPERIENCE WAS IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF THE FOREMAN...

GOOD HEAVENS, WHAT HAVE I DONE? I ALLOWED A GUILTY MAN TO GO FREE! THE STRANGER IN THE JURY ROOM HYPNOTIZED US! THE SPELL WASN'T BROKEN TILL JUST NOW!



THE JURORS GATHERED TOGETHER, TOLD THEIR STORY TO THE JUDGE...

WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS? THE GUARD HAS JUST SWORN THAT NOBODY WAS IN THE JURY ROOM BESIDE YOU TWELVE! STILL, I MUST CONFESS THAT ONLY MEN NOT IN POSSESSION OF THEIR SENSES COULD HAVE BROUGHT IN SUCH A VERDICT!

WE WERE HYPNOTIZED, YOUR HONOR!

UNLESS WE CAN FIND THE HYPNOTIST, MY HANDS ARE TIED! ONCE A MAN HAS BEEN FOUND INNOCENT, HE CANNOT BE TRIED AGAIN... UNLESS TAMPERING WITH THE JURY CAN BE PROVED! THE MAN MUST BE FOUND!

I'M SURE WE CAN ALL DESCRIBE HIM!



AN ARTIST WAS CALLED IN TO MAKE SKETCHES! EACH JUROR HELPED...

YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE... BUT THE NOSE WAS THINNER... THE EYEBROWS DARKER!

THAT'S CORRECT! ALSO, HIS LIPS WERE A TRIFLE MORE FULL!



WHEN THE FINAL LIKENESS WAS SHOWN TO THE JUDGE...

ARE YOU ALL QUITE MAD? THIS IS NONE OTHER THAN SIR ALFRED HAINES... THE MURDERED MAN! I'VE SEEN HIS PORTRAIT SEVERAL TIMES!



THAT IS SIR ALFRED? YOU... MUST BE MISTAKEN! THAT MAN WAS THE ONE WHO MADE US BRING IN THE VERDICT OF NOT GUILTY!

IMPOSSIBLE! WHAT SORT OF HOAX ARE YOU PLAYING?



IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, THE CASE WAS DEBATED EVERYWHERE... ESPECIALLY IN THE AUGUST CHAMBERS OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH...

IN MY OPINION, GENTLEMEN, THE JURORS ARE TELLING THE TRUTH! SIR ALFRED HAINES DID NOT WISH HIS YOUNG SECRETARY TO PAY FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT! AFTER ALL, HE WAS FOND OF THE LAD!

ABSURD!



NOT LONG AFTERWARD, THE CASE TOOK ITS LAST AMAZING TWIST! A YOUNG BURGLAR CONFESSED TO THE CRIME...

NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, YOUR HONOR! THIS CRIMINAL WAS RESPONSIBLE! HE WAS BURGLARIZING SIR ALFRED'S HOME WHEN HE WAS SURPRISED! WE WERE PERHAPS HASTY IN ASSUMING IT AN INSIDE JOB...

GREAT SCOTT, I WOULD HAVE SENT AN INNOCENT MAN TO THE GALLOWES IF... IF...



IF! IF! BUT WHAT IS THE TRUTH BEHIND THE BAFFLING FACTS?

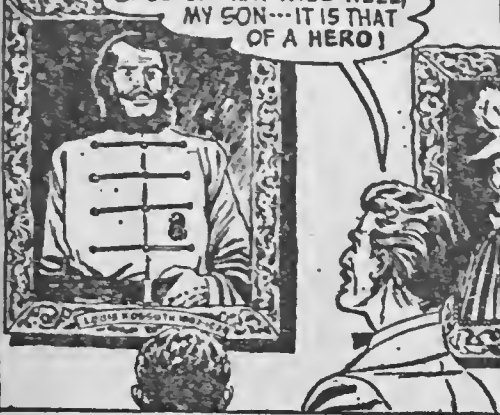
THE END!

MYSTERIOUS LEADER



IN HUNGARY, THE NAME OF LOUIS KOSSUTH MEANS AS MUCH AS THAT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON IN THE UNITED STATES! CHILDREN LEARNED OF HIS EXPLOITS EARLY...

GAZE ON THAT FACE WELL, MY SON... IT IS THAT OF A HERO!



NO MAN PLANNED THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION! IT STARTED WITH AN ACT OF OUTRAGE, WHEN RUSSIAN SOLDIERS FIRED ON A CROWD OF HUNGARIAN WORKERS WHO HAD GATHERED TO PROTEST CONDITIONS...

TEACH THE DOGS A LESSON! FIRE!

AGH!



WITHIN MOMENTS, THE STREETS OF BUDAPEST WERE AFLAME! A GALLANT PEOPLE HAD TAKEN AS MUCH AS THEY COULD STAND...

GET THE LEADER'S TOGETHER! THIS TIME WE'LL FIGHT... EVEN WITH OUR BARE HANDS!

FLEE!

BAM!

RATATAT!



WHILE GUNFIRE AND THE SHRIEKS OF WOUNDED FILLED THE TERROR-STROCK CITY...

MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!

GIVE ME A GUN! I WANT TO FIGHT!



THAT FIRST DAY OF SAVAGE FIGHTING SAW AMAZING ACTS OF HEROISM...

YOU ASKED FOR IT, REDS!

RATATAT!



ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY...

ANTON CAN'T MOVE OUT THERE -- HE'S WOUNDED! I'M GOING AFTER HIM!

NO! THE REDS ARE SWEEPING THE SQUARE WITH GUNFIRE! IT'D BE SUICIDE!

BAM! BAM!



DURING THOSE HECTIC MOMENTS, NO ONE COULD BE SURE OF EXACTLY WHAT WAS HAPPENING...

LOOK! SOMEONE'S DASHED TO HIS HELP! WHERE'D HE COME FROM?

GREAT HEAVENS, HE SEEMED TO APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR! I... I DIDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF THE SPOT!



BEFORE THEIR ASTONISHED EYES, THE STRANGER RACED THROUGH A HAIL OF GUNFIRE UNHARMED...

HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION AT ONCE! ALL OF YOU FOLLOW ME--- THIS IS NOT A GOOD POSITION TO FIGHT FROM!

LET'S DO WHAT HE SAYS, MEN-- LET'S GO!



THE NEWCOMER TOOK CHARGE IMMEDIATELY! MINUTES LATER...

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN? WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE?

WE NEED MORE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION! THIS BUILDING IS A RED ARSENAL! FOLLOW ME IN!



WITH A SUDDEN ATTACK---

SWIFTLY NOW! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!



THE STRANGER'S BRILLIANT TACTICS HAD STUNNING EFFECT! WITHIN MOMENTS, THEY HAD REACHED THE ARMS CACHE---

NOW WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO FIGHT WITH!

THIS IS WONDERFUL! NOW WE'VE GOT A CHANCE!



BY NIGHTFALL, THE WHOLE WORLD KNEW THAT THE BRAVE HUNGARIANS HAD REVOLTED! THE UNDERGROUND LEADERS MET TO PLAN OVERALL STRATEGY---

IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS MAN, WE'D BE DEAD! HE LED US IN CAPTURING THE ARSENAL!

WHO ARE YOU? I ... I THINK I'VE SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



CALL ME FRANZ! WE MUSTN'T WASTE TIME TALKING! NONE OF YOU HAS MILITARY EXPERIENCE... I DO! LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO!

NOT SO FAST! NONE OF US KNOWS YOU! YOU'RE NOT FROM BUDAPEST, I'M SURE OF THAT!

I'M FROM THE PROVINCES! DO I HAVE TO PROVE FURTHER THAT I AM A PATRIOT?

I TRUST HIM! TELL US WHAT TO DO, FRANZ!

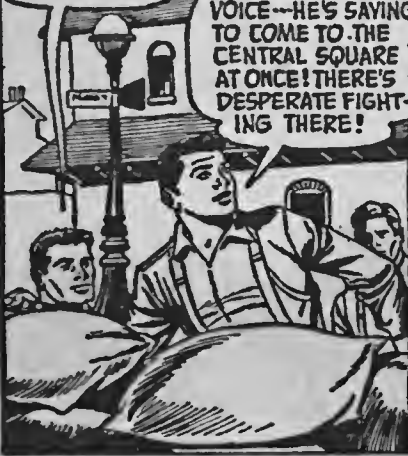




IN THE DAYS OF SAVAGE FIGHTING WHICH FOLLOWED, STRANGE EVENTS TOOK PLACE---

WHAT'S WRONG, JOSEF? YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

I---I'M GETTING A MESSAGE---FROM THE AIR ITSELF! I---I HEARD FRANZ'S VOICE---HE'S SAYING TO COME TO THE CENTRAL SQUARE AT ONCE! THERE'S DESPERATE FIGHTING THERE!



HERE WE ARE, FRANZ! YOU--YOU DID SEND FOR ME, DIDN'T YOU? BUT HOW--

NEVER MIND THAT! WE'RE OUTNUMBERED BADLY!



WITH THE REINFORCEMENTS, THE RED ATTACK WAS BEATEN OFF, BUT---

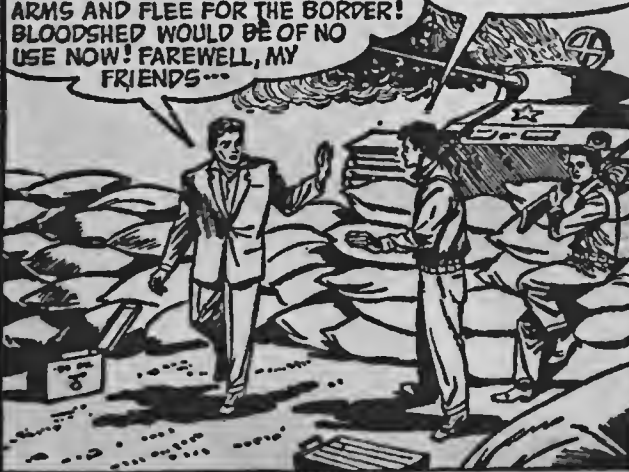
OUR POSITION IS HOPELESS NOW! THE RUSSIANS HAVE DECIDED TO THROW THEIR ARMY AND AIR FORCE AGAINST US! AGAINST SUCH ODDS WE CANNOT WIN!

ARE YOU SURE? WHERE DID YOU GET THE INFORMATION?



I KNOW IT---THAT IS ENOUGH! ALREADY THEY ARE RINGING THE CITY WITH ARMOR! LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND FLEE FOR THE BORDER! BLOODSHED WOULD BE OF NO USE NOW! FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS---

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, FRANZ? DON'T LEAVE US!



M-MERCIFUL HEAVENS! HE---HE'S VANISHING!

HUNGARY WILL BE FREE, I PROMISE YOU! LONG LIVE FREEDOM!



NEXT MOMENT, HE WAS GONE!

DID YOU ALL SEE WHAT I SAW? AM I DREAMING?

HE---HE DISAPPEARED BEFORE OUR EYES! WHAT CAN THIS ALL MEAN? WHO WAS HE? HE---HE LOOKED SO FAMILIAR!



AS FRANZ HAD PREDICTED, THE RUSSIAN ARMY ENTERED THE CITY IN FORCE AND THE REBELLION WAS CRUSHED! SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN THE STILL SEETHING CITY---

LOOK, MIKHAIL! THAT STATUE OF LOUIS KOSSUTH! DOESN'T THAT LOOK LIKE---

YOU---YOU'RE RIGHT! TAKE AWAY THE BEARD AND MOUSTACHE--AND IT'S THE FACE OF FRANZ!



AROUND THE WORLD, AUTHORITIES ON THE SUPERNATURAL ARE WAITING TO STUDY THIS REPORT!

The END!

YOU SAY WAR STORIES ARE NOTHING NEW TO YOU---THAT YOU'VE HEARD COUNTLESS TALES OF HEROISM, OF BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS! MAYBE...BUT HERE'S SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T HEARD! IT'S THE STRANGE ACCOUNT OF ANCIENT MYSTERY IN A REMOTE PACIFIC OUTPOST...OF THE ASTOUNDING THING THAT LAY---

BURIED *by the* CENTURIES!

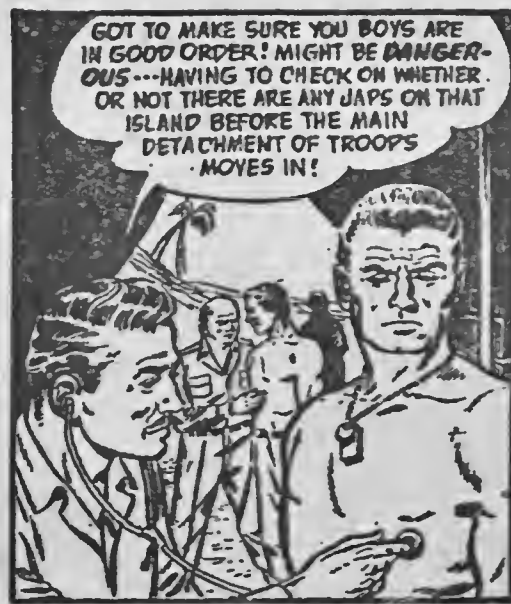
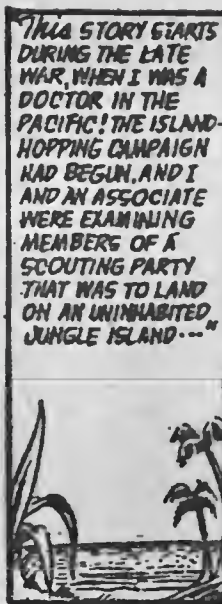


FORT BLANDING---1961---THE OFFICE OF COLONEL DENNIS OF THE MEDICAL CORPS---



SO---GIVE! MEDICINE IN THE ARMY IS MIGHTY CUT AND DRIED---I SUPPOSE THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS SOME STATISTICS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PENICILLIN IN COMBATTING JUNGLE RASHES!





NOWHERE A SOUND...NOWHERE THE SLIGHTEST MOTION! WAS IT ANY WONDER THAT THEY RELAXED THEIR CAUTION?

OKAY, LET'S TAKE A
BREATHER! THERE'S NOBODY
AROUND BUT US CHICKENS!

**SUDDENLY, A MURDEROUS BURST OF MACHINEGUN
FIRE! AMBUSH!**

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!

AND NEXT MOMENT...

BANZAI! BAM! BAM!

**NOT A MEMBER OF THE SCOUTING PARTY SURVIVED THAT
MURDEROUS ONSET...EXCEPT PFC ROGER BURNS!**

WE DIDN'T...
HAVE A
CHANCE...

BAM!

RAT-TAT-TAT!

**BUT THEY'D SEEN HIM ESCAPE...AND PURSUIT WAS
RELENTLESS...**

THEY...THEY KNOW WE WERE A
SCOUTING PARTY...AND THEY DON'T
WANT TO LEAVE A MAN ALIVE WHO
MIGHT WARN OFF THE MAIN FORCE
FROM LANDING!

SYSTEMATICALLY, THEY SOUGHT HIM...

THERE ARE ENOUGH
OF THEM TO WIPE OUT OUR
LANDING FORCE! I'VE
GOT TO SHAKE LOOSE
FROM THEM SOMEHOW...
--AND TRY TO PREVENT
OUR MEN FROM WALK-
ING INTO THE SAME
TRAP WE DID!

SOMEHOW, HE ESCAPED CAPTURE...FOR THAT NIGHT, AT LEAST...



BUT SHORTLY AFTER DAWN...

OH-OH! I'M HUNG UP HERE...UNLESS...

AMERICAN!
AMERICAN!



MAYBE...THERE'S STILL A CHANCE!



BUT THE WOODS WERE FULL OF THEM...AND NOW ESCAPE SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE...

THEY'RE... ALL AROUND ME...



GUESS... THIS IS IT!



AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT CAME A DIZZY SHAYING, A FEARFUL ROAR! EARTHQUAKE!



WHEN ROGER RECOVERED HIS SENSES...



EVERYTHING'S-- CHANGED!
I'M IN A CREVASSE THAT'S
OPENED UP IN THE GROUND!
AND THOSE JAPS...THEY'RE
GONE, BURIED BY THE
QUAKE!

OKAY, SO MY LIFE'S SPARED FOR NOW--
BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE G.I.'S WHO'LL
BE LANDING SOON? THIS WAS A LOCAL
TREMOR THAT ONLY GOT THOSE FEW
JAPS...THE REST OF 'EM WILL BE
WAITING TO WIPE OUT OUR FELLAS
WHEN THEY LAND...AND THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT
IT!



SUDDENLY, HIS EYE WAS CAUGHT BY A GLINT IN THE DIRT! IN A
MOMENT, HE HAD UNCOVERED ITS SOURCE...



WHAT THE...! WHAT IS THIS
...A JOKE? IT'S A GOBLET...
BUT WHO COULD HAVE USED
IT, EXCEPT A GIANT?

NOW THE CREVASSE YIELDED ANOTHER FIND...



COULD THIS
BE...A COMB?
BUT HOW BIG
COULD...

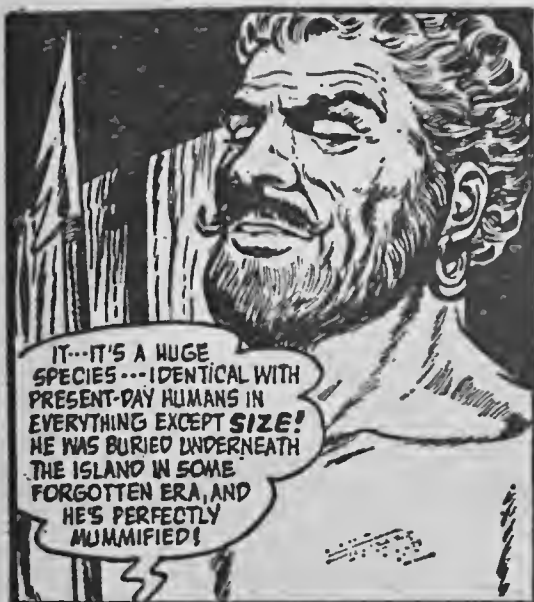
WONDERINGLY, HE EXPLORED THE CREVASSE, FOLLOWING A
TRAIL OF OTHER STRANGE, HUGE TOKENS...AN OUTFIZED
WAR ARROW...A GIGANTIC FINGER RING! THEN, SUDDENLY...



NO...NO...THIS
CAN'T BE WHAT
I THINK IT IS...



...B. BUT
IT IS! IT'S A
GIANT...OUT
OF SOME
ANCIENT
AGE!



IT...IT'S A HUGE SPECIES...IDENTICAL WITH PRESENT-DAY HUMANS IN EVERYTHING EXCEPT **SIZE!** HE WAS BURIED UNDERNEATH THE ISLAND IN SOME FORGOTTEN ERA, AND HE'S PERFECTLY MUMMIFIED!



A DISTANT MOVEMENT ON THE FAR-OFF OCEAN SURFACE CAUGHT HIS EYE...AND THEN CAME A HORRIFYING REALIZATION...

HOLY HANNAH, THERE COME OUR FELLAS NOW...AND THEY'LL FALL **RIGHT INTO THAT JAP TRAP!**



THEY'RE...STILL A DISTANCE AWAY! THE NIPS WILL BE HIDING IN THE FRINGE OF JUNGLE ALONG THE BEACH, JUST WAITING... **UNLESS...**



HE HAD ONE LAST, DESPAIRING HOPE...AND NOW HE TRIED IT...

EEE-YOWWW! IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ME...COME AND GET ME!

AFTER HIM AND SILENCE HIM! BUT NO SHOOTING...IT MIGHT WARN THE YANKEES!



GOT TO...KEEP AHEAD OF THEM...LONG ENOUGH...



BACK HE LED HIS PURSUERS...BACK INTO THE CREEVASSE...

WE HAVE HIM NOW!



WITH THE JAP FORCE MADE CAPTIVE...

WE SURE WERE LUCKY THAT SOMETHING PANICKED THEM THAT WAY! WHEN I THINK THAT WE MIGHT HAVE WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT AMBUSH...

NO USE WONDERING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR SCOUTING PARTY! BUT WE'D BEST SEARCH THE ISLAND AT ONCE, TO SEE IF ANY OF THEM ARE LEFT ALIVE!



AS THEY PUSHED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE...

HEY, THAT FEELS LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE --- COMING FROM UP AHEAD!



UP AHEAD... THAT WAS WHERE THEY FOUND HIM... PFC ROGER BURNS...

HE'S ALIVE AND UNHURT! IT'S SOME SORT OF SHOCK, I THINK...



GIANT... LOOKED LIKE HE WAS... ALIVE! UNDERNEATH THE ISLAND NOW... WHERE HE'S BEEN... MILLION YEARS...

I'D BETTER GIVE HIM A SEDATIVE!

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED WHEN HE COMPLAINED ABOUT BATTLE FATIGUE THE LAST TIME I EXAMINED HIM! THAT'S WHAT HE'S GOT, ALL RIGHT!



AS COLONEL DENNIS FINISHED HIS STORY...

IF YOU GOT THAT FAIRYTALE OUT OF ROGER BURNS, HE SURE **MUST** HAVE HAD BATTLE FATIGUE! AND I CAN'T GO PRINTING STORIES ABOUT A CRAZY MAN'S HALLUCINATIONS!

HALLUCINATIONS? MAYBE... BUT I'M STILL REMEMBERING SOMETHING I SAW AS WE TOOK HIM AWAY... SOMETHING I DIDN'T EVEN SPEAK ABOUT MYSELF, BECAUSE I WANTED TO KEEP MY OWN SANITY!



"THERE IT WAS, HUGE IN THE SUNSET, PROJECTING FROM THE GROUND..."



END

THIS IS A TENSE TALE OF THE FUTURE...OF THE YEAR 2050, WHEN THINGS WERE PRETTY MUCH AS THEY ARE TODAY, EXCEPT FOR THE CONQUEST OF SPACE. IT'S THE STORY OF A MAN WHO WAS A FAILURE UNTIL HE HITCHED HIS WAGON TO A DISTANT STAR. HE DIDN'T DREAM OF THE PERILS THAT AWAITED HIM WHEN THEY TOLD HIM...

"YOU'LL MAKE A MILLION BUCKS UP THERE!"



MEET OUR HERO, TOM ROBERTSON. HE DOESN'T SEEM MUCH OF A HERO...BUT YOU NEVER CAN TELL...

HOW COME I DON'T SEE YOU IN MY STORE ANYMORE, MRS. GREEN?

LET'S FACE IT...I MAY DROP IN FOR AN ODD THING OR TWO, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO REAL SHOPPING, YOU JUST CAN'T COMPETE WITH THAT NEW SUPERMARKET!



YES, THAT'S THE WAY THINGS WERE...AND SOON...

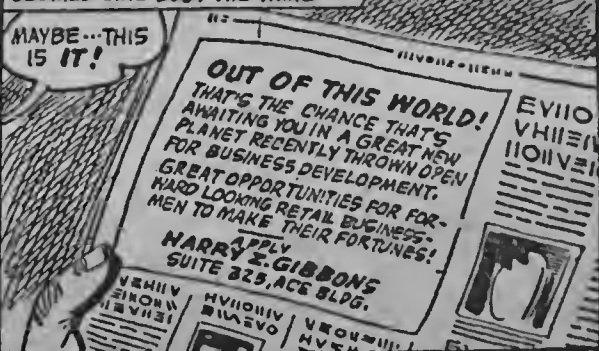


WHAT GIVES WITH ME ANYWAY, PEGGY? BEFORE THIS, IT WAS THE GENERAL STORE AND I FLOPPED WITH THAT...AND BEFORE THAT, IT WAS THE FILLING STATION THAT FOLDED. I...I GUESS I'M JUST A BORN FAILURE!

NOW, NOW, TOM...I LOVE YOU AND I'VE GOT CONFIDENCE IN YOU. SOMEDAY YOU'LL MAKE IT BIG, I'M SURE OF IT!



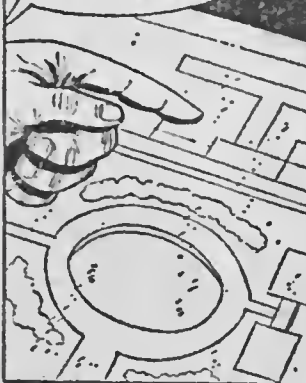
IT WAS ALL A MATTER OF FINDING THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY...AND AN AD IN THE PAPER THE FOLLOWING WEEK SEEMED LIKE JUST THE THING...



YOU LOOK LIKE A SMART BUSINESSMAN, MR. ROBERTSON. THE PLANET **CORIANUS** REPRESENTS THE GREATEST COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY OF THE AGE! ITS POPULATION NEEDS RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS... THEY CAN TAKE EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT. NOW, IN THE SHOPPING AREA WHICH WE'RE SPONSORING, WE CAN GUARANTEE YOU AN **EXCLUSIVE!**



HERE'S THE GREAT SHOPPING CENTER WE'RE BUILDING AND HERE'S A FINE STORE FOR **YOU**. YOU'LL BE THE ONLY GROCER WITHIN MILES. **YOU'LL MAKE A MILLION BUCKS UP THERE!**



\$10,000, YOU SAY? ISN'T THAT A LOT OF MONEY? IT WOULD TAKE EVERY CENT WE COULD BEG OR BORROW...

BUT LOOK WHAT WE'RE **GETTING** FOR IT, PEG! A FINE STORE, AND THEY'LL TRANSPORT THE STOCK AND US UP THERE FREE. AND LIKE MR. GIBBONS SAYS, I'LL MAKE A MILLION UP THERE! WE **CAN'T** MISS AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THAT!



FREIGHT ROCKETS TRANSPORTED QUANTITIES OF MERCHANDISE THROUGH SPACE... AND THERE WAS A PASSENGER CRAFT FOR THE FORWARD-LOOKING BUSINESSMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES...

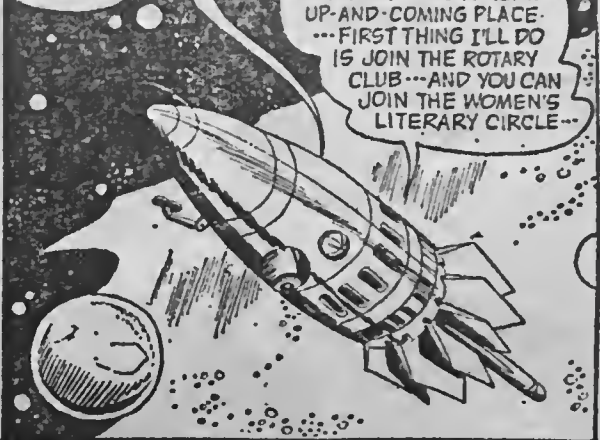
ARE **THEY** GOING TO RUN THE OTHER SHOPS IN THE NEW SHOPPING CENTER? I WOULDN'T CALL THEM EXACTLY THE **GO-GETTER** TYPE...

YOU CAN'T JUDGE BY **LOOKS**, PEG. THEY'RE ALL KEEN OPERATORS WHO KNOW WHAT A REAL OPPORTUNITY IS... MR. GIBBONS SAYS HE WOULDN'T TAKE ANY OTHER KIND!



IT'S A LONG TRIP. I... I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY, TOM. I HOPE IT'S GOING TO BE EVERYTHING YOU SAY...

HANG IT, PEGGY, STOP WORRYING... IT'LL BE **FINE!** I WOULDN'T HAVE PAID THE \$10,000 IF IT WASN'T. IT'LL BE A REAL UP-AND-COMING PLACE... FIRST THING I'LL DO IS JOIN THE ROTARY CLUB... AND YOU CAN JOIN THE WOMEN'S LITERARY CIRCLE...



BUT AS THE ROCKET CAME IN FOR A LANDING ON CORIANUS...

IS--IS **THAT** ALL IT IS?

NO TOWN, NO HOUSES, NO PEOPLE... **NOTHING!**

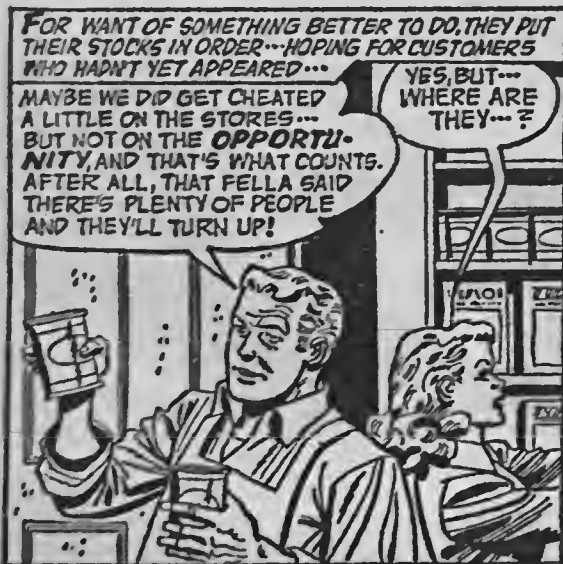
THE GREAT SHOPPING CENTER WE PAID OUR MONEY FOR... **LOOK** AT IT!

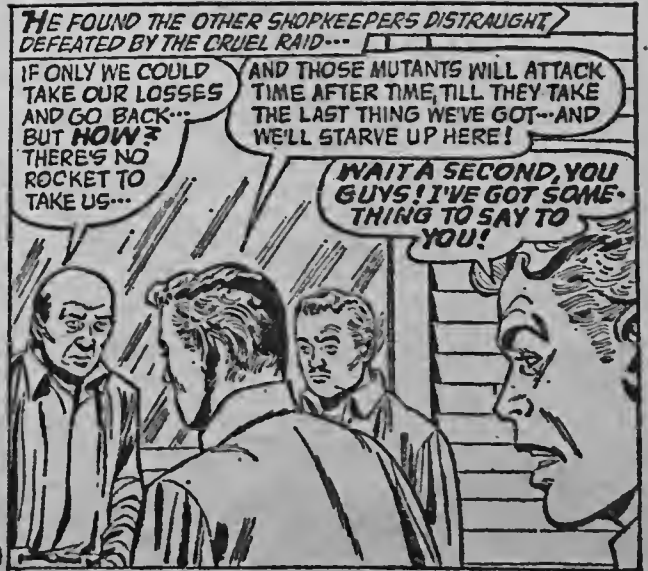


WE'VE BEEN **CHEATED**... YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE WHOLE DEAL. GIBBONS CHARTERED A FLEET OF ROCKETS TO BRING YOU FELLAS AND YOUR STOCKS OF MERCHANDISE UP HERE. YOU GOT ANY COMPLAINTS, TELL 'EM TO **HIM**, NOT US!







CAN'T YOU SEE THAT KIND OF TALK'S NO GOOD? WE'RE UP HERE AND WE CAN'T GET AWAY...WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL! WE'VE GOT TO GET READY FOR THEIR NEXT ATTACK! I'VE GOT SOME IDEAS...ARE YOU READY TO FOLLOW ME?

WE'VE GOT NO ALTERNATIVE! WE'LL LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU PROPOSE...



UNDER HIS SUPERVISION, THEY PITCHED IN AND GOT TO WORK. FIRST, THEY BUILT A WALL AROUND THE CLUSTER OF STORES...



NEXT, THEY DID SOMETHING STRANGE...

THAT'S RIGHT...TIE THE TREETOPS DOWN TO THOSE STAKES!

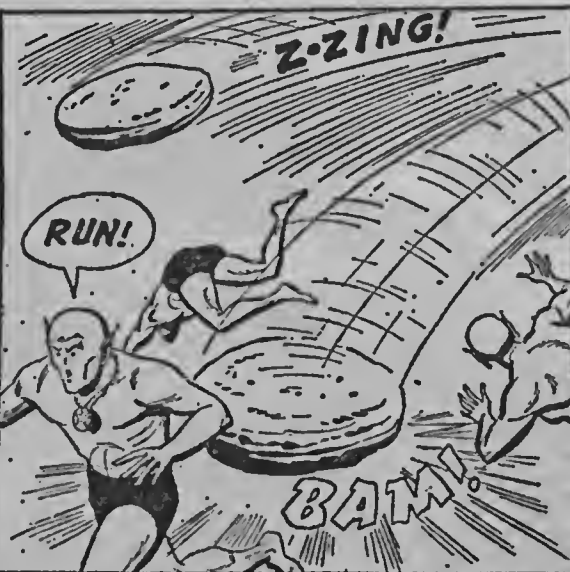


THE NEXT ATTACK WASN'T LONG IN COMING... HOLD ON... THEY'VE BUILT A WALL! SO WHAT...WE CAN GET OVER THAT! YOU DON'T THINK THOSE COWARDS WILL FIGHT, DO YOU?



HERE THEY COME!

LET 'ER RIP!

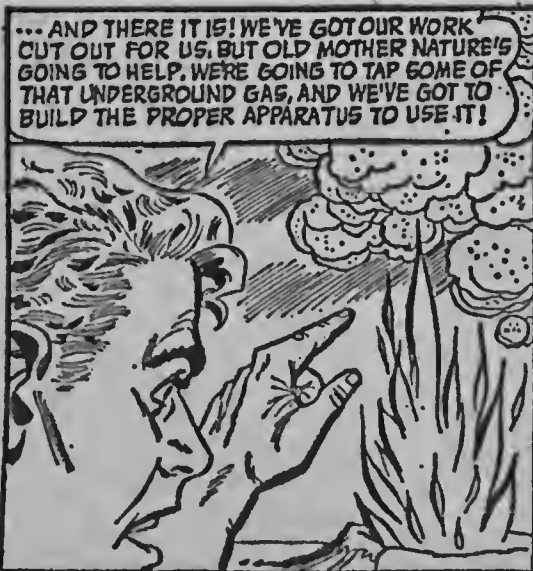


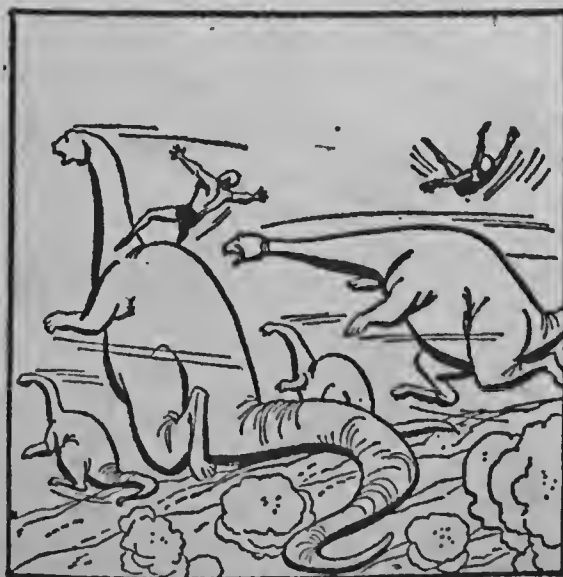
IT SERVES US RIGHT FOR COMING WITH SUCH A SMALL PARTY. NEXT TIME, WE'LL ATTACK IN FORCE!

THEY COULD STILL HOLD US OFF! THE TROUBLE IS THAT THOSE WEAKLINGS MUST HAVE COME UP WITH A LEADER...AND WE CAN'T DO A THING BEFORE WE GET RID OF HIM! LISTEN...HERE'S WHAT WE'LL DO...











ANOTHER WHITE FLAG, CHIEF! PROBABLY TREACHERY AGAIN

I DON'T THINK SO... I'M BETTING THEY KNOW WHEN THEY'RE LICKED. HAVE THE DELEGATION ADVANCE INTO HERE... BUT STAY ON GUARD!



WE'RE SURRENDERING OUR LEADER TO YOU... ALL THIS WAS HIS FAULT. SPARE US, WE BEG OF YOU... WE KNOW WE CAN'T FIGHT YOU...

THERE'S NO NEED FOR FIGHTING... ACTUALLY WE CAN GET ALONG VERY WELL TOGETHER. WE HAVE THINGS TO SELL... THINGS THAT YOU NEED.

PSSST-- CHIEF--



HOW CAN WE SELL THEM ANYTHING? THEY HAVE NO MONEY...

MAYBE NOT... BUT HAVE YOU NOTICED THE ORNAMENTS THEY WEAR? I'M BETTING THEY'LL TEST AS SOLID GOLD... AND THAT THEY'LL GLADLY TRADE 'EM FOR WHAT-EVER WE'RE WILLING TO SWAP!



SOME TIME HAD PASSED WHEN PROMOTER HARRY Z. GIBBONS RECEIVED AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR DOWN ON PLANET EARTH...

T-TOM ROBERTSON! HOW... W-WHAT--

SO YOU REMEMBER ME, DO YOU... AND YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING HOW I EVER GOT BACK FROM CORIANUS.



WELL, IT SO HAPPENED THAT A GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION ROCKET LANDED, AND WE WERE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR REGULAR SERVICE BETWEEN CORIANUS AND EARTH.

BUT-- BUT WHAT DID YOU WANT THE SERVICE FOR? WHO'D WANT TO GO THERE? COME BACK, YES --BUT GO--?



WHAT A QUESTION TO ASK-- DIDN'T YOU TELL ME I'D MAKE A MILLION BUCKS UP THERE? WELL, I DID-- I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW!



THANKS... THANKS A MILLION!... WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW... HE FAINTED!

THE END!

HERE'S A STORY OF A MYSTERIOUS JUNGLE IDOL...AND THE GREED OF A RUTHLESS MAN.
THRILL PILES UPON THRILL IN THIS TENSE TALE WE'LL CALL...

"NEW STATUE!"

STORY:- ACE
AQUILA



AT THE OFFICES OF ORB, AMERICA'S GREATEST PICTURE MAGAZINE...

WE'VE CALLED YOU IN BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE CLUES TO THE LOCATION OF THE REMNANTS OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION BURIED IN THE JUNGLES OF SOUTH AMERICA, DR. AINSLEY.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS A RELIGIOUS STATE, SUPPOSEDLY RULED BY THE HIGH PRIESTS OF THE GOD MANTIKI.

ART
by
PETE COSTANZA



NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU. PETE ZEMBA, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE...MEMBER OF THE EXPLORERS' CLUB...AT HOME IN THE FURTHEST WILDS OF THE WORLD! I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND THE RUINS WE'LL BE SEARCHING FOR!

LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT MANTIKI, EXCEPT THAT HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY IN THE FORM OF AN APE... BUT HIS TEMPLE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE EXTRAORDINARY.

THEN THE FIRST PICTURES OF IT ARE WHAT MY READERS WILL GO FOR. I'LL FINANCE A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION WITH YOU AS SCIENTIFIC HEAD. NOW MEET PETE ZEMBA, WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE...ER... PRACTICAL DETAILS!

I'M SURE WE'LL GET ALONG, DOC...I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.



YES, PETE ZEMBA'S HELP WAS INVALUABLE AS THE EXPEDITION FOUGHT ITS WAY THROUGH DENSE JUNGLES...



IT WASN'T EASY. MANY TIMES, DR. AINSLEY WAS AT THE END OF HIS ROPE...

IT'S NO USE... WE'LL NEVER FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IN THESE WILDS. WE'LL BE LUCKY IF WE EVER GET OUT ALIVE... MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GIVE UP!

NONSENSE, MAN... BUCK UP! I'VE GOT AN INSTINCT FOR THINGS LIKE THIS. WE'LL FIND IT YET... I SAY LET'S KEEP ON!



ON AND ON, WEARY DAY AFTER WEARY DAY. THEN, WHEN THINGS LOOKED BLACKEST...

LOOK! THERE IT IS... WE DID IT!



I... I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D MAKE IT, BUT WE DID... THANKS TO YOU, PETE!

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET A LOOK AT THAT THING!



THERE IT IS... THE THING WE WORKED SO HARD TO REACH. IT... IT'S COLOSSAL!

WOW! IT TOPS ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN... AND I'VE SEEN PLENTY!



AS THEY APPROACHED THE HUGE IDOL, THEY SAW SOMETHING ELSE, WHICH HADN'T BEEN VISIBLE BEFORE...

SAY, LOOK AT THOSE STATUES! FIGURES OF MEN, WORSHIPPING THE APE GOD MANTIKI!



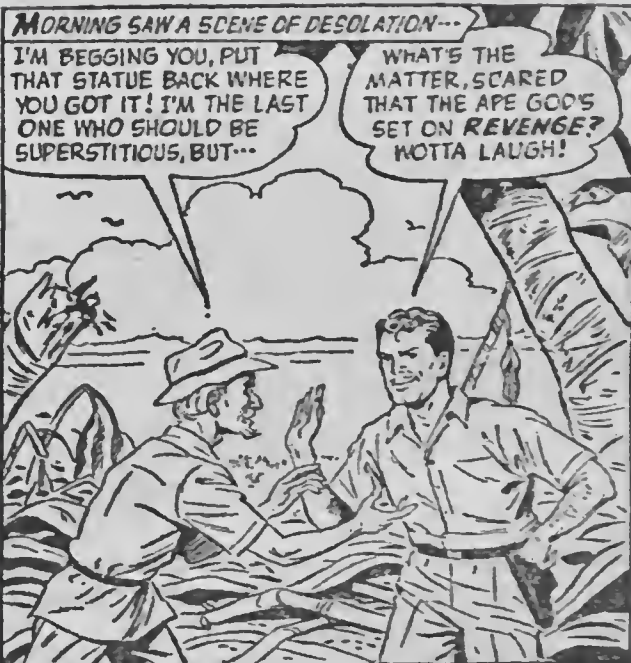
I... I NEVER BELIEVED STATUES COULD BE SO REALISTIC! THEY'RE SO LIFELIKE THAT IT'S FRIGHTENING!

BOY, WHAT ONE OF THEM WOULD BE WORTH BACK HOME! IT WOULD BE PRICELESS!





LOOK!
UP THERE
IN THE SKY
--IT--IT LOOKS
LIKE MANTIKI,
GONE MAD!



MORNING SAW A SCENE OF DESOLATION--

I'M BEGGING YOU, PUT
THAT STATUE BACK WHERE
YOU GOT IT! I'M THE LAST
ONE WHO SHOULD BE
SUPERSTITIOUS, BUT...

WHAT'S THE
MATTER, SCARED
THAT THE APE GOD'S
SET ON REVENGE?
NOTTA LAUGH!



DR. AINSLEY--MR. ZEMBA--
LOOK! UP THERE...
ALONG THE RIDGE
COMING OUT OF
THE JUNGLE...



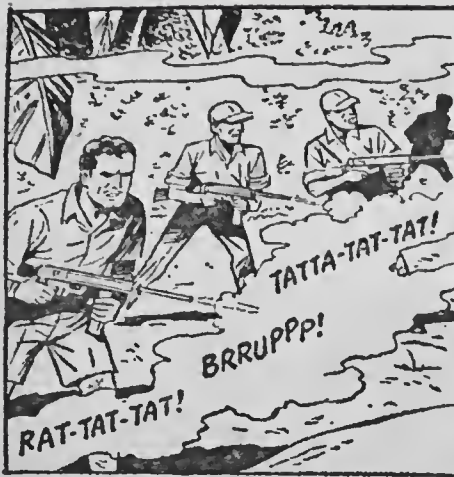
APES... BY THE HUNDREDS!
IT'S AS IF SOMEONE... SOMETHING'S
...CALLING THEM!

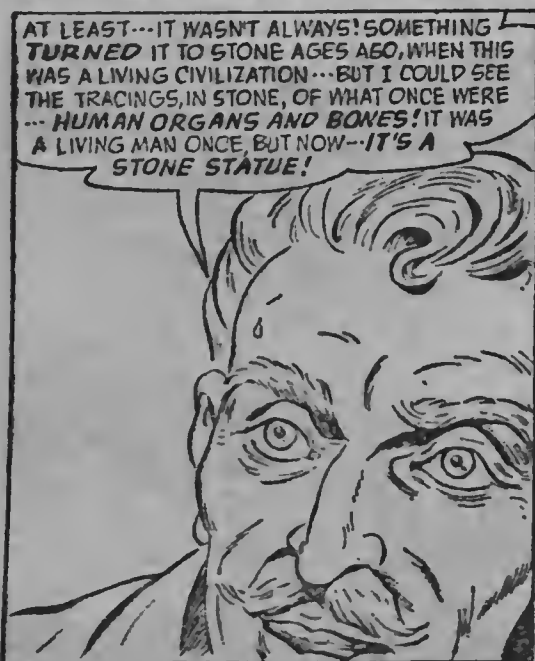


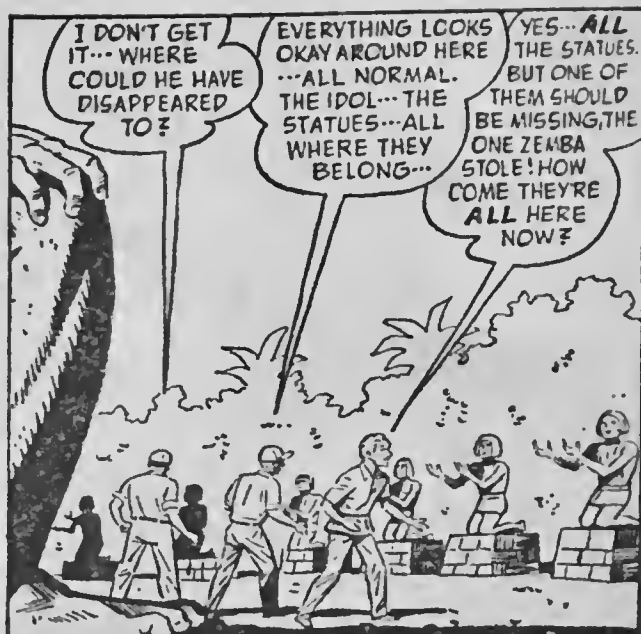
**THEY RUSHED TO
THE ATTACK...**
APES OBEYING
AN APE GOD--



**LUCKY I PACKED IN THESE MACHINE
GUNS IN CASE WE RAN INTO HOSTILE
NATIVES. USE THEM AND FIGHT, EVERY
LAST ONE OF YOU--IF YOU WANT
TO KEEP ON LIVING!**







AND THE FACE OF MANTIKI, THE APE GOD, WORE A LOOK OF CRUEL SATISFACTION. THE IDOL HAD INSISTED ON HAVING ALL HIS WORSHIPPERS AROUND HIM...





JUNGLE SUPERSTITIONS

Down through the ages, men have been surrounded by terrifying mysteries. In the jungle there still exists belief in the spirits of magic. The savage belief that evil spirits can be brought under control resulted in the native witch doctor.

The witch doctor created thousands of magic practices and superstitions. For example, if you want someone completely under your power, you must first get possession of something that belongs to him; like a lock of hair or a drop of blood. With these it is believed you can decide a man's destiny.

We've all heard of the ancient voodoo rites. It was the practice among many natives to make figures of clay, resembling their enemies. Then, calling them by name, they would thrust pins into the doll, or melt them over fire. This was supposed to cause illness or great pain. Sometimes even death. Does the voodoo doll actually work? We have no proof that it does, and yet, the practice still exists today in remote parts of the world, which would seem to indicate that something is happening or else voodooism would have died out long ago.

If an Australian aborigine wants to bring harm to an enemy, he simply has to find the man's footprint and drive a sharp stone through it to do the job.

When you see movies of savage tribes, you immediately notice their colorful costumes. These costumes are not simply for show. Each item has a purpose. The feathers on the headdress are believed to give the wearer the swiftness of a bird and sharp eyesight. Claws of a lion will bring the courage of the king of the jungle. Elephant tusks are supposed to bring great strength and good memory.

These superstitions also carry over into the food that some natives eat. For example, many natives will not eat deer or rabbit for fear that it will turn them into cowards. The meat of a lion or a tiger will bring a brave heart. But, it

also takes a brave heart to hunt one in the first place.

Witch doctors also pretend to be rainmakers. They invented the rain dance in which all of the natives participated. Did the rain always come after a rain dance? Not always, but many times it did, and the witch doctor's prestige increased! A good witch doctor usually looked at the sky for signs of rain before starting one of his rain dances!

Once when crops were bad, a witch doctor convinced his tribe to shape clay into the form of vegetables and plant it in the ground so that real plants would grow. This plan failed miserably and the witch doctor lost face. Or maybe even head!

In some sections of the jungle, a man is given two names: a secret name and a name for everyday use. The secret name was known only to members of the family and never uttered in public, so that if someone wanted to put a curse on the man it would not work because the curse would be on his phony name and not his real one.

Charm words and incantations have been used to summon up the spirits of the dead. These incantations were kept secret and known only to a few. Whether it was rigged or real is impossible to tell. But, many people in modern cities still persist in attending the spiritualistic mediums, palm-readers and fortune tellers.

Many words that we use today began with the witch doctor. The word "charm" is used to describe talismans, amulets, and even mascots. Who has not known a girl who wore a charm bracelet? For that matter, a mascot at a football game is supposed to bring good luck and owes its history to the witch doctor.

The superstitions of the savage witch doctor still persist today. We who live in the jet age of modern society still cling to the beliefs of the past.

There are people who think a broken mirror will bring bad luck. Rarely do you see a person who will walk under a ladder. Spilling salt is supposed to be bad luck but can be counteracted by throwing some over your shoulder. This brings bad luck to the person sitting behind you. After all, who wants salt thrown all over them?

There are modern buildings that do not have a thirteenth floor! You take the elevator from twelve to fourteen. Many companies refuse to have their offices on the thirteenth floor, so it's been eliminated.

So the witch doctor continues to influence our lives. His power is with us today and will remain as long as there's still a black cat or a rabbit's foot.

THE

FLY

LIKE A NIGHTMARE COME TO COLOSSAL LIFE, THE HUGE BEAST LOOMS OVER A GREAT METROPOLIS INVINCIBLE AND HORRIFYING! EVEN *THE FLY* REALIZES THAT NOTHING ON EARTH CAN REPULSE...

The *TIGER* GENIE!



ONE NIGHT, IN DOWNTOWN CAPITAL CITY...

BLAST *THE FLY*! HE'S SCOURING THE CITY LOOKING FOR ME! SO IS EVERY POLICEMAN... BECAUSE MY SQUEALING GANG TOLD THE COPS I ENGINEERED THAT \$200,000 VAN VELDE JEWEL ROBBERY!

NOW THEY'VE GOT A DRAGNET OUT FOR ME! THEY'RE WATCHING EVERY BUS, TRAIN AND AIR TERMINAL! THEY'VE BLOCKED ALL ROADS LEADING FROM THE CITY! *THE FLY* IS ON 24 HOUR PATROL!

ANTIQUES

CURIO

ANTIQUES





BUT I'LL FOOL 'EM! EVEN
THE FLY WON'T CAPTURE ME!
BUT I MUST STAY OFF THE
STREETS TO AVOID BEING
SPOTTED!



I'LL HIDE OUT TILL MORNING
IN THIS OLD CURIO SHOPPE!
I CAN JIMMY THE DOOR!

PRESENTLY, AS GANG LEADER
KARL RANCE POKES AROUND
THE MUSTY OLD STORE...

...HIS GAZE RESTS ON AN OLD
WINE BOTTLE...



WHAT A PACK OF JUNK!
SOME OF THE STUFF
HERE IS CENTURIES
OLD! HUH! I'D TRADE
IT ALL FOR A GLASS
OF BEER!



SAY, THERE'S
NOTHING
WRONG WITH
WINE, EITHER!
MAYBE IT'S A
RARE OLD
VINTAGE!

T-THERE'S A LITTLE
TIGER FIGURE INSIDE! AND
LETTERING ON THE BOTTLE!
I'LL SEE IF I CAN READ IT!



"THE TIGER GENIE"! I-I DON'T GET IT!
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF GAG! BUT
UNLESS I'M CRAZY...



...AND I'M SEEING THINGS...THE LITTLE TIGER
WALKING UP AND DOWN INSIDE THE BOTTLE
--LIKE A REAL TIGER PACING UP AND DOWN
INSIDE ITS CAGE!

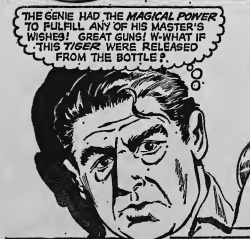


GRR-RR!

AND I CAN HEAR IT GROWLING!



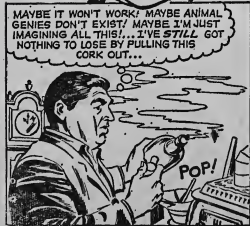
LET ME TRY TO REMEMBER! THE GENIE IN THE ARABIAN NIGHTS WAS A GIANT FIGURE OF A MAN! WHOEVER LET HIM OUT OF THE BOTTLE BECAME THE GENIE'S MASTER! HE COULD COMMAND THE GENIE TO DO ANYTHING!



THE GENIE HAD THE MAGICAL POWER TO FULFILL ANY OF HIS MASTER'S WISHES! GREAT GUNS! W-WHAT IF THIS TIGER WERE RELEASED FROM THE BOTTLE?



HE'D BECOME GIANT-SIZED... AND MY SLAVE! HE'D OBEY EVERY ORDER I GAVE HIM!... EVEN TO PROTECT ME FROM THE FLY!



MAYBE IT WON'T WORK! MAYBE ANIMAL GENIES DON'T EXIST! MAYBE I'M JUST IMAGINING ALL THIS!... I'VE STILL GOT NOTHING TO LOSE BY PULLING THIS CORK OUT...

POP!



'GASP' DENSE SMOKE IS COMING OUT OF THE BOTTLE!

WHOOOSH!

BUT KARL RANCE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE TO NOTICE THE SMOKE...

GREAT GRASSHOPPERS! A FIRE HAS BROKEN OUT DOWNTOWN! I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!



BUT BEFORE THE FLY EVEN WHEELS AROUND...

I-I'M SEEING THINGS! THE SHAPE OF A HUGE CAT IS TAKING FORM INSIDE THE SMOKE!



THE NEXT MOMENT...

GASP! I-I-T'S NOT A CAT! IT'S A TIGER... AS HUGE AS A SKY-SCRAPER!



I-IT'S ROAR IS LOUDER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN THUNDER! IT'S SMASHING HUNDREDS OF WINDOWS! IN A FEW SECONDS THE WHOLE CITY WILL NOT ONLY HEAR IT, BUT SEE IT!



AND, INDEED, WITHIN MINUTES, A HORRIFIED POPULACE BECOMES AWARE OF THE COLOSSAL BEAST...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S A N-NIGHTMARE!



DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? YEAH! *!GASP!*

I'M GLAD WE'RE NOT LANDING OUR PLANE IN THIS CITY! LET'S GET FAR AWAY FAST!



AND IN THE STREETS...

IT'S UNCANNY! OUR BULLETS GO RIGHT THROUGH IT... AS IF THE THING WEREN'T REAL!



T-THEN WHAT IS IT? WHERE DID IT COME FROM? WHY IS IT HERE?

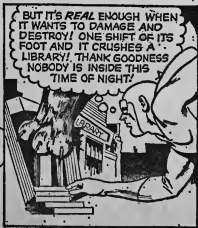
I CAN'T KNOCK IT OUT WITH MY BUZZ-GUN!



MY POWERS ARE USELESS AGAINST IT! I CAN'T BLIND IT!...

AND I PASS RIGHT THROUGH IT, AS IF IT WERE A GHOST!

BUT IT'S REAL ENOUGH WHEN IT WANTS TO DAMAGE AND DESTROY! ONE SHIFT OF ITS FOOT AND IT CRUSHES A LIBRARY! THANK GOODNESS NOBODY IS INSIDE THIS TIME OF NIGHT!



ONLY ONE MAN CAN EXPLAIN THE APPEARANCE
OF THE MIGHTY
TIGER...

IT'S A GENIE AND I'M ITS
MASTER! THE BEAST IS
INDESTRUCTIBLE BECAUSE IT'S
A SUPERNATURAL CREATURE!
EVEN ATOM BOMBS COULDN'T
DESTROY IT!



SHORTLY, AS KARL RANCE SUMMONS THE
POLICE...

NOW YOU KNOW THAT TIGER IS A
GENIE WHO CAN PROTECT ME
AGAINST AN ARMY! BUT BEFORE
I LEAVE TOWN, I WANT TO SETTLE
ONE SCORE! GIVE THE FLY THIS
MESSAGE...



SOON AFTER, ON A ROOF TOP...

RANCE'S ULTIMATIM IS THAT
YOU SHOW UP BEFORE DAWN
SO THE TIGER CAN KILL YOU,
FLY--OR HE'LL TURN IT LOOSE
ON THE CITY! IT'LL KILL
MILLIONS!

SO THE BEAST
HAS SUPER-
NATURAL POWERS!
I THOUGHT AS
MUCH!



OKAY! TAKE THIS MESSAGE BACK TO RANCE!
TELL HIM I'LL APPEAR BY DAYLIGHT AS A
SACRIFICE TO HIS GENIE! MEANWHILE, TRY
TO CALM THE CITY!



AS THE FLY STREAKS TO THE LAW OFFICES OF
THOMAS TROY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW...

THEN, AS THOMAS TROY ENTERS HIS SECRET
LABORATORY...

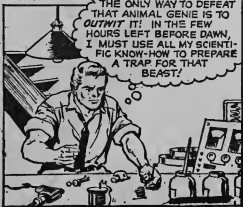
FIRST... TO SWITCH TO MY SECRET
IDENTITY, AS LAWYER THOMAS TROY!
I HAVE BUT TO RUB MY MAGIC FLY
RING AND PRONOUNCE THE NAME...

THOMAS
TROY!

THOMAS TROY
ATTORNEY



THE ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT
THAT ANIMAL GENIE IS TO
OUTWIT IT! IN THE FEW
HOURS LEFT BEFORE DAWN,
I MUST USE ALL MY SCIENTI-
FIC KNOW-HOW TO PREPARE
A TRAP FOR THAT
BEAST!



HOURS LATER, AS THE SUN RISES...



BUT AS RANCE ISSUES A MURDEROUS ORDER TO THE MONSTER...



MOMENTS AFTER, IN THE STREET...



PRESENTLY, DOWNTOWN...



SUDDENLY, AMAZINGLY, THE HUGE BEAST STARTS TO SHRINK...



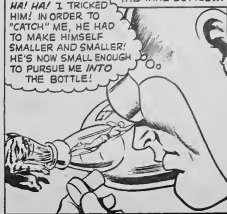
ABRUPTLY, AS THE PURSUING BEAST TURNS A CORNER...



SECONDS LATER, AS THE TIGER ROUNDS
ANOTHER STREET CORNER...



THEN AS THE MINIATURE FLY STREAKS INTO
THE WINE BOTTLE...



GOT IT! NOW THAT TIGER REALIZES
THAT WHAT HE TORE TO BITS WAS A
TINY ROBOT FIGURE OF THE FLY! I
HAD TO LURE THE TIGER BACK INTO THE
BOTTLE! ACCORDING TO LEGEND, IT'S
THE ONLY WAY TO RENDER A GENIE
POWERLESS!



THEN, AS KARL RANCE COMES TO...

YOU SEE, RANCE, I CONSTRUCTED FIVE
ROBOTS, EACH SMALLER THAN THE
OTHER! IN HIS EAGERNESS TO KILL
ME, THE GENIE KEPT DIMINISHING,
TOO, NOT REALIZING HE WAS CHASING
THE ROBOTS! IT'LL NEVER ESCAPE
AGAIN BECAUSE

I'M DROPPING IT
INTO THE OCEAN!

HA! HA!
THE FLY'S
"MAGIC" IS
EVEN MORE
POWERFUL
THAN A
GENIE'S!



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PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW